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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/775,886	02/02/2001	Garret Minakawa	50277-1639	8654

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EXAMINER

BULLOCK JR, LEWIS ALEXANDER

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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2126

DATE MAILED: 02/25/2004

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Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/775,886

Applicant(s)

MINAKAWA ET AL.

Examiner

Lewis A. Bullock, Jr.

Art Unit

2126

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --
Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 16 December 2003.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-26 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☒ Claim(s) 1-22 is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 23-26 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____.
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____.
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other: _____.

DETAILED ACTION

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

1. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(e) the invention was described in (1) an application for patent, published under section 122(b), by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent or (2) a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent, except that an international application filed under the treaty defined in section 351(a) shall have the effects for purposes of this subsection of an application filed in the United States only if the international application designated the United States and was published under Article 21(2) of such treaty in the English language.

1. Claims 23-26 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by ELLARD (US 5,999,937).

As to claim 23, ELLARD teaches a method for converting code values between applications, the method comprising the steps of: storing first data (field processing database of an action database) that associates a plurality of code conversion rules (typical conversion commands for a particular application) with a field (field) defined by an application (col. 5, lines 55 – col. 6, line 4); receiving an application code (lower case characters) associated with the field (data field); selecting, based on the first data (field processing database), a single code conversion rule (TOUPPER command) from the plurality of code conversion rules (typical conversion commands); and converting the application code (lower case characters) based on the single code conversion rule (TOUPPER command) into a plurality of other codes (upper case characters) (col. 5, line 55 – col. 6, line 6; col. 7, lines 7-31).

As to claim 24, ELLARD teaches the converting includes converting the application code (lower case characters) into a plurality of other codes (upper case characters) specified by a user for the single code conversion rule (TOUPPER command converts lower case characters that a user entered in the input data set to upper case characters) (col. 5, line 55 – col. 6, line 4).

As to claims 25 and 26, reference is made to a computer readable medium that corresponds to the method of claims 23 and 24 and is therefore met by the rejection of claims 23 and 24 above.

Allowable Subject Matter

2. Claims 1-22 are allowed.
3. The following is a statement of reasons for the indication of allowable subject matter: All of the claims are allowable for at least the following reasoning: Some of the claims indicate that the conversion rules are stored based on a plurality of categories wherein the first data associates a category of a plurality of categories with conversion rules such that the inspecting determines the code conversion category first, and then the conversion rule. None of the prior arts of record teach the mapping of conversion rules to conversion categories as detailed in the claims. The remaining set of claims indicate that for a given field that exists a plurality of conversion rules stored as first data and for each conversion rule exist second data that associates a criteria for applying the conversion rule based on one or more other fields having zero or more other code

values. The system converts the application code stored in the field by selecting a single conversion rule after inspecting the first and second data. The prior art at best teaches that selection of a single conversion rule out of a plurality of conversion rules based on the first data. The reference does not effectively teach the inspecting of a second data in addition to the first data in order to determine a single conversion rule from a plurality of conversion rules as argued by Applicant in the response. Therefore, the cited claims are allowable.

Response to Arguments

4. Applicant's arguments with respect to claims 23-26 have been considered but are moot in view of the new ground(s) of rejection.

Conclusion

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Lewis A. Bullock, Jr. whose telephone number is (703) 305-0439. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Friday, 8:30 am - 5:00 pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Meng An can be reached on (703) 305-9678. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

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